

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/013934

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the **elements** of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1-5 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. _____ as originally filed/furnished
- nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.* 1-9 _____ received by this Authority on 28.09.2005 with letter of 27.09.2005
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ the drawings:
- sheets _____ as originally filed/furnished
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
1.	Statement		
	Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-9</u>	YES
		Claims _____	NO
	Inventive step (IS)	Claims <u>1-9</u>	YES
		Claims _____	NO
	Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-9</u>	YES
		Claims _____	NO
2.	Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)		
	Reference is made to the following documents:		
	D1: EP-A-0 850 972 (BASF CORP.), 1 July 1998 (1998-07-01)		
	D2: EP-A-1 065 193 (INEOS, NAAMLOZE VENNOOTSCHAP), 3 January 2001 (2001-01-03)		
	D3: EP-A-0 539 167 (ORTHO PHARMACEUTICAL CORP.), 28 April 1993 (1993-04-28)		
	D4: EP-A-1 245 608 (NOF CORP.), 2 October 2002 (2002-10-02)		
	1. Novelty (PCT Article 33(2))		
	<p>The present claim 1 discloses a method for preparing polyethylene glycol with a residual content of less than 30 ppm aldehyde, determined as formaldehyde according to the method in Ph. Eur. Monografie, 07/2003: 1444 "Macrogole", by ethoxylation of triethylene glycol in the presence of a basic catalyst, and characterised in that the triethylene glycol used is obtained by distillation from a glycol mixture essentially comprising monoethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol and higher glycols, under a pressure of 5-10 hPa and at a</p>		

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temperature of 140-160°C.

None of the above-mentioned documents D1-D4 discloses this type of method for preparing polyethylene glycol and having all the technical features of the present claim 1. The subject matter of the application is therefore novel.